

THE
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FRIDAY, APRIL 17.

Organization.

THE annual conference that has just passed was a season of much rejoicing to all those who had the privilege of participating in it. It will not soon be forgotten by them, if they keep the Spirit they then appeared to possess. We feel confident that there has been a spirit and power felt by the Saints both at home in the valleys of the mountains and abroad in the nations during this conference, such as has been seldom, if ever, enjoyed since the organization of the Church. This is but the beginning, however, of that which shall be endless, and is the consequence of the reformation which is extending from the centre to the circumference of the entire church. Who shall calculate the results and the impetus the work will receive from this important movement?

From the conference held in this city the Elders separated with a feeling such as they have never heretofore had in regard to their labors in this mission. They feel that they have been much blessed during the past six months and that the prospects are much brighter than they were, and that, by the help of the Lord, they will be enabled to do a good work during the ensuing half year. More laborers have been appointed to go forth in the ministry and act in conjunction with and under the direction of the different presidents of conferences; and if they labor with diligence, and continue to humble themselves before the Lord, seeking the blessings which he has promised, they will have much joy in their labors and will accomplish that for which they are sent forth, viz: the warning of the people, the gathering out of the honest in heart and the salvation of themselves. We hope that those who claim to be members of the Church and who have any disposition to do right and to adhere to the truth, will give heed to the counsel and instructions of these men who go forth to labor among them. Let them be upheld and strengthened by the faith and prayers of all, and they will be enabled to bear a faithful testimony unto the world of the truth of the work of which they are ministers.

Organize we remarked last week, is the word applicable to the Saints who intend to emigrate, and we feel to say to all over whom our counsel may have any influence, let none think of gathering on their own account and neglect to attend to this. So also we say to all who are scattered throughout the country and who have any desire to be numbered among the people of God, report yourselves to the elders who have been appointed to preside over the different portions of country in which you are living. Organize yourselves as far as practicable, and strive with all your power to obtain that spirit which the Lord has promised to bestow upon those who seek him in a proper manner, that you may be one with your brethren. Inasmuch as the Lord has seen fit to send us with our fellow-laborers into this portion of the vineyard, we intend, by His help, to do all in our power to warn this people and to feel after those who have once known the truth and the power thereof.

Some portions of the country have been divided into conferences, and men appointed at the late General Conference of this mission, to labor in and preside over them. All who have had any acquaintance with the organization of the Church of God and the priesthood which He has restored, ought to know that these men must be respected in their office and calling. No man need expect to be blessed who will not honor the authority which God has placed in His Church for its government. Whether it be the First Presidency of the whole church, the Twelve, or the president of a conference or branch, every one must be respected in his office and station, or the harmony which characterizes all the movements of the Church of God and makes it so immeasurably superior to the man-made systems of the day, will be disturbed. Every one, therefore, who has the success of the great work of the last days at heart, and is desirous of obtaining and retaining the spirit which accompanies it, will seek to make this organization as complete as possible, by identifying himself therewith.

The Latter-Day Saints

Meet every Sunday in this city, at the PHARMACIAN HALL, Stockton street, near Jackson, at 11 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. All who wish to investigate the principles of truth as revealed for man's salvation in the gospel of Christ, are cordially invited to attend.

Creditors have better memories than debtors.

False Reports.

If some of the many reports that are put in circulation relative to Governor Young and the Mormons were true, what a vast amount of perplexing trouble would be ended. How easily the Mormon problem would be solved! How quickly the oft-repeated and troublesome question of, who shall be Governor of Utah? would be answered! But, unfortunately for the hopes of its enemies, Mormonism still lives, still pursues the even tenor of its way, and will undoubtedly accomplish all that its adherents predict concerning it. The latest report we have noticed in circulation, comes to us in the Placerville Democrat, having been brought from Carson Valley by Messrs. H. Aldrich and W. Wood. That paper says, that "A report was prevalent in the valley that a serious dissension had arisen among the Saints at Salt Lake City. It is said that Brigham Young had been compelled to flee the city to save himself from the fury of his flock. The difficulty had its origin in matters relative to the administration of the church property, we believe."

To the people of Great Salt Lake City this will be news. They imagine that they are at peace, and that His Excellency Governor Brigham Young is in their midst, publicly addressing them from time to time in their meetings. But who that desires to hear of the downfall of "Mormonism" would believe that the "Mormons" know any thing about their own affairs? The Mormons may write and publish as much as they please about the peace and union that prevails in their midst; but who will believe it? Let a report be published, however, about dissensions and strife, tyranny and want existing there, and how greedily it is swallowed! It is published and republished until it goes throughout the length and breadth of the land. What a jubilee would be held if the above report was only true! What congratulations would be indulged in! No difference how much blood would be shed, how much suffering endured, if the Mormons would only quarrel among themselves and commence a war of extermination upon each other. Every apprehension would then be removed, and the constant dread which is now felt lest the Mormons should be too strong to be managed, would be ended. For the want of real dissensions and troubles and breaking up of the Mormons, they endeavor to console themselves with fictitious ones; these for the time being, answer very well; for when they become stale and are no longer believed, others can be manufactured to suit the exigency. Hope by this means is kept alive in their breasts; and they perish whilst cherishing and leaning upon the flattering suggestion, that "Mormonism" and the Mormons will fall to pieces before long. Thousands of rumors of this kind have been in constant circulation for these past twenty-seven years, and though their falsity has been abundantly and repeatedly exposed, yet men still rely upon them as heaven's truth, and still pertinaciously assert that they must be foundations for them. And, judging by the past, they will continue to circulate and believe in these rumors and reports so long as they live, though having the continual evidence before their eyes of the spread and increase of Mormonism.

Defective Mail Arrangement.

THE irregularity in the transmission of mails has hitherto been a source of much annoyance to the people of Deseret. Long, weary months have elapsed without receiving a single letter or paper by the eastern route, and at seasons of the year, too, when by a little energy and perseverance on the part of the contractor the mail might have been carried through successfully. The contract is now in the hands of a citizen of Utah, and measures are being taken to carry it through without fail every month in the year; and we are decidedly of the opinion that it will be done, and the contract fulfilled to the very letter. Had the government been fully alive to the interests of the people of Utah, the contract would have been awarded to citizens of that Territory from the beginning. They are the parties most interested in its regular transmission, and they would have exerted themselves with their characteristic diligence and perseverance to have complied with the requirements. But, ever since the organization of the Territory of Utah, there has been intolerable apathy and inattention manifested in regard to the mail facilities of its inhabitants. Had any other people been obliged to submit to the inconveniences they have had to labor under, there would have been such a cry of indignant remonstrance raised, that those possessing the power would have taken speedy action in the matter, and remedied every evil.

As an instance of the little attention there is paid to the convenience of the people of Utah in their postal privileges, we call attention to the mail which leaves this city, via San Bernardino, for Great Salt Lake City. This mail formerly left here on the 1st and 15th of every month, and while this arrangement continued, it worked admirably, the mail which left here on the 1st always arriving in San Bernardino in time to go through with the carrier, by the terms of his contract is compelled to leave by the 8th at the latest. A few months since, an alteration was made, and the dates of departure changed from the 1st and 15th of each month to the 5th and 20th. Since this arrangement has been made, letters

and papers which are sent from here on the 5th, and which ought to go right through by the mail that leaves San Bernardino on the 8th, arrive in that place generally on the 10th, and remain there until the 8th of the next month. Thus, by the mail arriving two days too late, the people of Utah are deprived of from two to three weeks later news, and the matter lies a whole month in the office at San Bernardino waiting for the next mail. Such arrangements are a disgrace to our age and country. If they were unavoidable they might be endured somewhat patiently; but this is not the case. There does not exist the slightest apparent necessity for the mail to be kept here until the 5th. The Atlantic mail is not the cause of detention; it always arrives here sufficiently early to admit of it being taken South on the 2nd or 3rd at the latest; neither is there any other good reason, that we are aware of, for persisting in this present arrangement. Had the transportation of the Utah mail or the convenience of the people of that Territory been taken into consideration, previous to the making of this arrangement, we feel assured that it would not have been made. This evil should be remedied, and we trust those who have charge of these affairs in this city will make the necessary amendments as soon as practicable.

Questions for Ministers to Answer.

WHAT effect will be produced upon the minds of Christians, when they with their pastors meet in Christian churches for the purpose of bringing "railing accusations" against Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David, men to whose superior wisdom, piety and inspiration they are indebted for all they know of God?

Is not such a course calculated to throw discredit upon the Scriptures which God revealed through them?

Could the veriest infidel desire a more effectual argument against the divine authenticity of the Scriptures, than to prove the patriarchs, prophets and seers through whom those Scriptures were given, were men living in the "abomination of polygamy" and the "lust of concubinage"?

If plural marriages are an abomination before God now, have they not always been so? or, when did the Almighty so change, that what he once commanded and blest, he now forbids and curses?

If polygamy is and was abominable in the sight of God, why did he not choose a monogamist in preference to polygamic Abraham to be His "friend" and recipient of his favors, and through whom all nations, if blest at all, were and are to be blessed?

Abraham and Jacob were polygamists and the divinely favored progenitors of the inspired David, who is declared to have been "a man after God's own heart," notwithstanding his rank polygamy, being the husband (including Saul's widows) of thirty-four women at the same time. He was the father of Solomon by his last married wife, which polygamic son of polygamic parents, was more especially favored of God than any monogamist has been from that day to this. This same Solomon was the progenitor of Joseph the reputed father, and Mary the real mother of Christ.

Now how is it, that when the Great God sent his Son into the world to be a Savior and a Mediator between God and men, that He chose this polygamic family through which to send that Son, in preference to a monogamic stock which had never been tainted by plural marriages?

The Bible tells us that Abraham had a testimony that he pleased God. He had this testimony after he had become and while he was yet a polygamist. How could this possibly be, if God was not well pleased with his having several wives? or, how could it be if the institution of polygamy was not pure and holy in His sight?

The Bible tells Christian men, that the children of Abraham will do his works; and both Paul and Peter call the polygamic wives of the patriarchs, "holy women," whose pure and virtuous examples they exhort Christian women to emulate. From this it is evident, that not only are the Patriarchs in Heaven, but their families also. If this be true, does not the expression "Abraham's Bosom," mean the bosom of his family in heaven? If not, what does it mean?

Christians hope to eventually reach that happy place where Abraham holds so distinguished a position; do they ever think of the singular fact, that the society there is polygamic? and that to "strike hands" with the brightest spirits there, will be to do so with men and women who lived and died polygamists?

To our mind, three things are certain: first, The Bible is a polygamic book; second, its credibility as a divine record depends materially upon the estimate we place upon the characters of them who wrote it; third, to speak or think disparagingly of those characters is a direct step toward infidelity; and if Mr. Lacy or any other priest suffers a course to be pursued before Christian congregations, they must not be surprised to find such congregations inoculated with infidelity and fall to pieces under the very strokes intended for the polygamic Latter-day Saints.

Why is a young lady like a bill of exchange? Because she ought to be settled by the time she reaches maturity.

Important Decision.

THE Golden Age arrived here April 12th, bringing the news from New York and New Orleans up to March 20th: the most important item of which is the decision, by a full bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, of the "Dred Scott" case. Some years since, Dr. Emerson, of the U. S. army, removed from Missouri to Rock Island, Ill., taking with him his slave, Dred Scott, where he remained two years. He then resided at Fort Snelling, then in Iowa territory, where Dred was married to a slave woman owned by Major Taliaferro, by which woman he had two children. Subsequently the parties returned to Missouri where the slaves were sold to a Mr. Sandford, against whom a suit was brought for their freedom on the ground that Dred was voluntarily carried into a State whose laws prohibited slavery, and that the woman was entitled to freedom because her master had carried her into territory north of 36: 30 degrees, which was made free territory by the compromise of 1820. The case was argued in Missouri, and was decided in favor of Sandford. It was then carried up to the Supreme Court, where it was argued at the last term, and continued to the present for the judgment of the full bench. This case has been decided: the following being the opinion of the majority of the court, as delivered by Chief Justice Taney:

1. That negroes, whether slaves or free, that is, men of the African race, are not citizens of the United States by the Constitution.

2. The ordinance of 1787 had no independent constitutional force or legal effect subsequently to the adoption of the Constitution, and could not operate of itself to confer freedom or citizenship within the North-west Territory on negroes, not citizens by the Constitution.

3. The provisions of the Act of 1820, commonly called the Missouri Compromise, in so far as it undertook to exclude negro slavery from, and communicate freedom and citizenship to negroes within the northern part of the Louisiana cession, was a legislative act exceeding the powers of Congress; and void and of no legal effect to that end.

In deciding these main points, the Supreme Court determined the following incidental points:

1. The expression, "Territory and other property of the Union," in the Constitution, applies in terms only to such territory of the Union possessed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution.

2. The rights of citizens of the United States, emigrating into any Federal Territory and the power of the Federal Government therein, depend on the general provisions of the Constitution, which defines in this as in all other respects the powers of Congress. 3. As Congress does not possess power itself to make enactments relative to the persons or property of citizens of the United States in a Federal Territory, other than such as the Constitution confers, so it cannot constitutionally delegate any such powers to a Territorial government, organized by it under the Constitution.

4. The legal condition of a Slave in the State of Missouri, is not affected by the temporary sojourn of such slave in any other State, but on his return his condition still depends on the laws of Missouri. As the plaintiff was not a citizen of Missouri, he therefore could not sue in the courts of the United States. The suit must be dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

This is, perhaps, the most important decision ever made by the Supreme Tribunal of the nation. It states to us emphatically, that all compromises invasive of the Constitution, and all laws based upon such compromises, are null and void. The ordinance of 1787, and the compromise of 1820 are declared to be unconstitutional, and it is distinctly stated, the Congress can neither mold the institutions of the territories, while they are territories, nor delegate the power to do it to the inhabitants thereof. This decision makes it legal for the American citizen to locate in any of the territories of the United States, with his wives and children, negroes and other property without let or hindrance, or withdrawal of the protection of government.

Utah News.

By the steamer Senator, which arrived in this port from the South on Monday evening, we have dates from Great Salt Lake City to the 4th ult. As will be seen by our correspondence in another column, there is every prospect of this being a prosperous season in Utah in regard to both temporal and spiritual affairs. We are pleased to hear that the communication between Utah and the outer world by the eastern route, is likely to be more regular this season than it has been. We extract the following from the News on this subject:

"The Eastern Mail was dispatched by Mr. Thomas on the 3d instant, under charge of Mr. O. P. Rockwell to Laramie and of Mr. Groesbeck from there to Independence, at which place Mr. Groesbeck will tarry for a time to operate for an express line, of which company he and Mr. Rockwell are members. Mr. H. S. Eldredge, who is also a member of the Express Company, and on his way to St. Louis, two passengers, eleven employees and 32 animals go out with this mail. From the steps already taken in an unfavorable season of the year, it can be readily inferred that the route from here to Independence will soon be supplied with convenient stations and equipped with men, animals and vehicles amply sufficient for the speedy and safe transmission of mails, conveyance of passengers and transportation of such necessary articles as we are yet obliged to procure in markets outside our borders. To render the operation still more reliable, responsible and intelligent men will be stationed at all suitable points from this city to St. Louis, Missouri; and when this important and extensive

plan is fairly in operation, we trust that we shall be done with the hitherto just complaints about abominable mail failures, and that passengers and goods can safely and speedily pass over a lengthy and heretofore expensive route at reasonable rates."

The DESERT NEWS closed its 17th volume on the 4th of March, with a steadily increasing number of subscribers and good prospects for its continued publication. The editor—Hon. Albert Carrington—in alluding to this subject, says, "an effort will be made to make the NEWS, though now highly valuable, still more worthy of a list of subscribers that will embrace at least every head of a family in the Territory of Utah." We trust that he will have his most sanguine desires and expectations gratified in the perpetuity and success of that paper.

EARLY SPRING.

We learn from the NEWS that spring is opening very mildly, and many are already busily engaged in sowing peas, parsnips, carrots, onions, lettuce, &c., also in sowing radishes and beets and planting potatoes for early use.

Asparagus grown in the open air graced the dinner table of Gov. Young on the 2nd inst.

'Pacific's' Reason for Mormon Emigration.

OUR neighbor of the Pacific, whose acuteness in discovering "mares' nests" we have alluded to occasionally, has made a most wonderful discovery this last week, which confirms to an astonishing extent the previous impressions we entertained of his perspicacity. He has discovered in our article of last week headed "Ho! for Salt Lake" a latent design against the Government of the United States! He says, "it is supposed that expecting trouble with the U. S. Government, they are taking means to increase their effective force in this way, [i. e., by recommending emigration] to enable them to resist the forces that may be sent by Uncle Sam to secure the due execution of the laws of the United States in that Territory."

Mr. Brayton is morbidly sensitive at present on every thing connected with "Mormonism," and seems to be haunted with a continual fear lest it should succeed. His late efforts to deal it a death blow, have excited him. His imagination has become so disordered that he can discover nothing in the immigration to Utah but a design against the General Government. We should advise the gentleman, before he goes any farther, to inquire whether this is a new movement of the Mormons, or have they been expecting trouble with the U. S. Government for the past quarter of a century, that has caused them to take this means of increasing their effective force? The people of Utah have neither violated nor interfered with the due execution of the laws of the United States; they, therefore, have no cause to anticipate a visit from Uncle Sam. Were they in the position of the editor of the Pacific, and had unblushingly contended that they had the right to depose the regularly constituted courts, transcend the metes and bounds prescribed by the constitution, and administer justice irrespective of the forms of law, they might be apprehensive of a visit from the old gentleman's forces. But this, (to their honor be it spoken when we remember what has been done in neighboring communities,) they can not be charged with.

Government of God.

GOVERNMENT is one of the most important subjects that can engage the attention of mankind, and is well worthy of the noblest minds and the most comprehensive intellects, for, upon a right understanding and application of its principles depend the welfare and happiness of the whole human family. Without government there is no order, without order there is no harmony, and without harmony there can be no happiness. This is equally as true with reference to the faculties of an individual, as it is when applied to families, states, nations or worlds. Hence the first, grand object of all education is, or should be, to teach children and men and women to govern themselves—to implant in their bosoms the principles of self-government.

Most of the greatest men the world has ever produced have devoted their time, their energies and their talents to the study of this sublime science, in the hope of being able to elucidate a system of government which would be perfect in its fundamental principles, universal in its nature, and adapted to the wants, circumstances, habits of all nations, tribes and people. This has been the great dream of their ambition, the all absorbing desire of their hearts. But have they been able to accomplish their desires? Let the world's history answer. If we turn over its pages, we shall find it to be one continuous record of the rise and downfall of governments. Empire has succeeded empire, kingdom has been built on the ruins of kingdom, one nation has been formed from the disorganized elements of another, and one form of government has followed another in quick succession. The world has been one grand theater of revolutions and bloody and devastating wars; millions of lives have been sacrificed; rivers of blood have been made to flow; and the whole earth has been filled with poverty, wretchedness, degradation, mourning and death—and all for the want of a proper system of government. And why all this confusion, strife and suffering? Simply because men have departed from God; they have shut Him out from the government of the world; they have said "we will not have thee to reign over us," and they have been trying to demonstrate the supposed fact, they could govern themselves independently of God. The result shows how well they have succeeded. God has permitted men to continue their experiments for nearly six thousand years in order that they might be convinced, if possible, of their folly and their own inability to govern themselves, and that they might consequently be induced to submit to His government and control. But are the majority of men any more convinced of the futility of their own plans and systems, and of the necessity of submitting to the government of God to-day, than they were two, four, or six thousand years ago? No. They still wish to experiment, and are as ready to unite in opposing the establishment of the kingdom of God upon the earth to-day, as they ever were.

Reasoning from analogy—judging of the future by the past, what has the world to hope from the practical workings of human theories. Already have men tried every form of government which their ingenuity could invent or their wisdom devise, and now as the result of the combined wisdom and experience of all ages, we have presented to us the Constitution of the United States which is indeed the best political instrument the world has ever been able to devise. If this fails, what system will men adopt? Will they return to the hated forms and exclusive aristocracy of a monarchy, or place themselves again under the despotic rule and sway of an emperor? No, never! They have tasted the sweets of liberty—they have discovered their power, and men are too fond of unrestrained license and liberty, willingly to relinquish one iota of the power they possess. The government of the United States is a grand and fearful experiment. On its success depend the happiness and lives of millions. It has been a trial to see whether mankind have made sufficient progress in virtue and integrity, for a government to rest for its support and power upon their power and love of order. It is, as we said, a fearful experiment, for if it fails—if men are not prepared for it—if there is not sufficient virtue to maintain such a government, then the consequences must be dreadful in the extreme.

To be continued.

Legislative.

In the Senate, on the 13th, An Act to provide for the payment of certain equitable claims against the State, and to contract a funding debt for that purpose. Mr. Bell opposed the bill at length. Whilst he believed in the integrity of the people, he thought that under the present state of excitement it would be unsafe to submit this question to the people, as they may repudiate the same. The bill was passed. Ayes, 22; noes, 2.

In the Assembly, on the 13th, Mr. Safford offered the following:

Resolved, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature will adjourn sine die on Tuesday, the 21st inst., at 12, m. Tabled.

Sacramento and El Dorado delegation, to whom was referred the bill to submit to the people of those counties a proposition to appropriate money for the building of a wagon road to Carson Valley, reported the same back.

In the Senate, on the 14, Mr. Cosby's libel bill was called up, and after about two hours consumed in debate, it was indefinitely postponed—ayes, 18; noes, 6. Mr. Westmoreland gave notice of a reconsideration.

The Court of Impeachment still convenes; there is nothing of note, however, elicited.—The recusant witness, Willis, has not yet been found, notwithstanding the reward that has been offered for him. The Managers for the Assembly need his testimony.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A WOMAN.—A woman who has been living at the What Cheer House for the last eighteen months died very suddenly a few days ago while eating at the supper table. Those present thought at first it was merely a slight indisposition from eating—that she had got some small substance in her windpipe—and that it was merely a temporary suspension of the breath. But in a few moments they were convinced that she was dying. Before medical assistance could be procured life was extinct. An autopsy was made by two physicians who found a piece of meat lodged in the gullet, causing her to suffocate.

A SINGULAR PRESENT.—Among the passengers by the steamship Goliath, which arrived the 11th inst., from Crescent City, is Mr. Seth Kinman, of Humboldt county, who is on his way to Washington with a present to President Buchanan. It consists of a chair of his own construction, and from four elk horns.—The seat is made of a beautiful piece of buckskin manufactured by himself. It is original in its design, and taken altogether presents a beautiful and unique appearance.

ACQUITTED OF MURDER.—The case of Eliza Munro, indicted for the murder of her infant female child, which we noticed a short time since has been concluded before Judge Norton, of the Twelfth District Court. The jury after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "not guilty of murder, by reason of insanity." The court thereupon ordered her to be discharged.

Correspondence.

For the Western Standard.

The First Principles of the Gospel.

BY C. W. WARELL.

LETTER NO. II.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of — FAITH TOWARD GOD.

1. *Traditionary Faith.*
From the book of Genesis we learn, that the knowledge of God possessed by Adam, was communicated to him by the Almighty himself. He retained that knowledge after the transgression; and the devotional acts of his sons, shew how carefully he had imparted that knowledge to them. From that time, the primary idea of God has been purely traditional. That tradition has followed the posterity of Adam through all time, and to all places. There exists no nation so utterly degraded, as to have entirely lost the tradition of the existence of a Supreme God; and of such importance is that idea held by Pagans, as well as by Jews and Christians, that it is, to this day, the first tradition taught to children. The faith of the Jews, at the time of John's preaching, was of this character. They believed the sacred Scriptures, not because they knew them to be true; but because they had been brought up in that belief. The Skeiniah, or visible presence of his glory, ceased at the destruction of the first temple; and the voice of inspiration, so familiar to their fathers, had not been heard in Israel since the time of Malachi. When these ceased, that living faith which had subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword; by which the saints out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens; thro' which women had received their dead raised to life again; and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection: by which others suffered cruel mockings and scourges; yea, moreover, bonds and imprisonments; while some were tempted, stoned, sawn, slain with the sword: others though destitute, afflicted, tormented; joyfully wandered about clad in sheep skins and goat skins; whose hiding places were the mountains and deserts, and whose homes the dens and caves of the earth: this faith which could accomplish and endure so much, also ceased.

Nothing is more natural, than for degenerate children to magnify the virtues of their forefathers. As an illustration of this, the degenerate Scribes and Pharisees, who possessed only a traditionary faith, magnified the virtues and spiritual gifts of their progenitors; and looked upon the revelations of God, as given through them, with an idolatrous veneration. In this respect traditionary faith knew no bounds. It could amplify itself even to the extreme of exaggeration, until, dethroning sober reason, it filled the mind with besetting superstition and arrant sectarianism; for, the true value to be placed upon the law and the prophets, was lost. In idolatrous hyper-criticism, which sought for mysterious and hidden meanings in God's word, because it was God's word: which too nice interpreting assumed the form of "the traditions of the elders," and perverted the understanding, which created a superstitious veneration for the Scriptures, unknown to them to whom those Scriptures were revealed. The evil arising from an excessive attachment to the word of God given aforetime, consists, chiefly, in closing the mind against Moses and the prophets, were equally ready to kill the Saviour who stood among them with new revelation. In their estimation, an atheist, and the one for his presumption, and the other for his assumption. Doubtless the Pharisees thought they had great faith. That faith was manifested in the garnishing of the sepulchres of the prophets, and compassing sea and land to make proselytes. But those evidences serve but to show to us the partisan character of a traditionary faith, and the blindness, zeal, and idolatrous fondness which may be brought to bear upon and to sustain that faith.

2. *The Faith of Christendom.*

It can hardly be necessary to say, that the faith of modern Christians is also traditionary. The complete parallel that exists between the Pharisaic and Christian faiths renders it certain, that the character of the one being established, the other may also be known. Christians believe the Bible to be the word of God, simply because they have been so educated to believe. Not one amongst them can honestly and in truth say, that he knows that book to be God's word. God has revealed to him nothing upon that or any other subject. He feels that it is God's word; yet precisely in the same manner that the Mohammedan feels that the Koran is God's word. I will put the question directly to the professing Christian: What do you know of God, or his revealed word? Speak truly, and you will answer, Nothing. You believe that God exists, because tradition has so taught you; and you believe the Bible to be his word for the same reason. You garnish the tombs of Christ and his disciples by building churches, convents and monasteries over them, and you spread the Bible far and wide; and say, Had I lived in the days of Christ's humiliation, I would have been his disciple. But let me again ask, Are you ready and willing to hear and believe the words of a new prophet? one who comes to you in these latter times with a "Thus saith the Lord?" Now is it not undeniable, that Christians are as uncompromisingly opposed to new revelations, as were the Jews? And the discerning eye can see with all the clearness of sunlight, that the same sectarian spirit—the same religious zeal—the same evil hearts of unbelief that persecuted and killed the Saviour and many of the Former-day Saints, also persecuted and killed Joseph and Hyrum Smith and many of the Latter-day Saints. If religious zeal crucified the Son of God and slew his servants; it was because they hated both God and his servants; and, by the same rule, those who kill God's prophets and saints now, do it because they hate God, and those whom he sends. The faith of Christendom, like the Pharisaic, naturally tends to sectarianism. Instead of bringing many minds into a unity of faith by a consistent and true exposition of the written word, and the unerring certainty of new revelation; it divides and distracts, by fanciful and erroneous explanations of scripture, and becomes mad-dened at even the mention of new revelation. Since the religious, after the world's fashion, killed the apostles and forced inspiration from the earth, they have had an abundance of time, and a fair opportunity, to test the value of a mere traditionary faith. Since the world became Christian (!) her priests have had full sway, and unbounded opportunities to advance the glory of God, and to disseminate divine

knowledge among the people. They christen—they educate—they marry—they bury. They monopolize the dispensing of the written word of God, and pronounce its blessings and its curses; and by virtue of that assumed prerogative hold dominion over the bodies and souls of men. The morals of the people are under their particular guardianship; and, in fine, they have given form, color, order and vitality to the religion, morals and institutions of the nations called Christian. They have had the control of untold millions of gold to aid them in their religious operations. They have had an increased knowledge of astronomy, which they at first opposed in the person of Galileo, by which they could have enlarged conceptions of the wonderful works of God. They have had the facilities of an increased commerce founded upon an increased knowledge of geography, which at first they opposed in the person of Columbus. They have had the aid of the press, which at first they opposed, saying, "If we do not destroy it, it will one day destroy us!" With all this advantage of position and control of means, how much more of the love of God, or of divine knowledge, or of the Holy Ghost, or unity of spirit, or of heavenly communion have they imparted to Christendom, than was enjoyed more than eighteen centuries ago, by a poor humble few who then composed the church of the living God? What same man can contemplate that church, the source of whose vitality and power was the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven—whose spiritual sustenance was not only peace and joy, but also truth revealed truth! newly revealed! revealed through apostles and prophets standing in their midst! whose living faith brought them to a positive knowledge of God and divine things! and compare that church with modern arrogant, proud, formal, revelationless, priest-ridden Christendom, and conscientiously think they are one and the same? Yet Christians think they have great faith; though nothing can be more certain, than that, if the faith of entire Christendom should be concentrated in one prayer; and that prayer be offered up upon modern Christian principles; it could not suffice to bring down one revelation from God: because Christians individually and collectively do not believe in new revelation; and consider it a certain mark of imposture in the Latter-day Saints, who testify of such things.

To be Continued.

FROM GREAT SALT LAKE CITY.

From our Correspondent:

G. S. L. CITY, March 5th, '87.

BROTHER GEO. Q. CANNON,

DEAR EDITOR: The Southern mail arrived at a late hour last evening, bringing Nos. 45 and 46 of the STANDARD, and information from San Bernardino that only one steamer had arrived at San Pedro from your place, which accounts for our not receiving the usual number of your paper and much other late news we had reason to expect.

The Eastern mail is now regular in its departure from this city, and we hope it will soon be as regular in its arrival. The fact that Gov. Young's influence is connected with an Express Company for carrying the mail, goods and passengers between here and the States, affords us who are here in the mountains very great satisfaction; for we know, and the world is finding it out very fast, that what he puts his hand to moves just the right way. It is said of the Almighty, that, "He speaks and it is done," and brother Brigham's actions are so much like this, that one might think they had learnt their lessons in the same school and of the same teacher. If there were a few more such men in the world, Utah would not only get a mail from the regions below, occasionally, but the news would come by telegraph, and the world would occasionally get a lesson from Utah that would either profit them or make them mad, and I don't know that it would matter much which.

One thing is certain, peace and prosperity are the legitimate fruits of the administration of all such men as Gov. Young. All the world know that such is the result of his administration, and if they loved peace and righteousness, they would say, Let his influence extend over all the earth; and so it will.

The Lord has blessed his people the past winter with much spiritual favor, and an early spring indicates that even the elements conspire to favor this people in the mountains. The farmers have been plowing and sowing for some days past, and many kinds of garden seeds are now in the ground. The early and well directed energies of the Husbandman speak a promising and an abundant future. The earth, being almost entirely free from frost, has drunk up the water as fast as the snow has melted, and will no doubt be much benefited by it. Almost immediately after the snow is gone the soil is fit for the plow.

Faith and good works are rapidly increasing with the people here; such works for instance as cultivating the soil, increasing their flocks and herds, and thereby increasing the advantages for manufacturing all necessary articles for home consumption. A considerable amount of means has been sent East this spring for the purchase of sheep to be driven here. Wards have several engaged in raising a fund for this purpose, and been successful in their efforts. I trust this step will be a profitable one to the community: we need the wool converted into cloth and for many other purposes.

The contemplated tour of Presidents Young and Kimball and those selected to accompany them early in the season to the Salmon River Mission, is an item of considerable interest. It will no doubt be one of the most pleasant "outs" that could be enjoyed. About one hundred names have been selected for the trip.

And in which both the living and the dead shall be honored of the Lord.

The Ordinances are now being administered two days per week in the Lord's house built for that purpose.

I don't see any prospect of the world being gratified by this people forgetting to marry. Their hope of our reforming in this thing ought to expire after what has transpired the past winter. I am actually afraid myself that young Mormons are rooting and growing so fast that they will in a short time overrun the world. Mormonism is eternal increase and progression; and Mormons evidently are waking up to live their religion, which is the most cheering and important news I can write, and comprehend about all I can say in a religious point of view.

General health prevails, and the Presidency are actively engaged, much of the time, in public duties. The general tranquility that reigns in these valleys might well be envied by the world if they were capable of enjoying it; but, alas! their way is the way of the transgressor, which is hard.

I remember you and those who are associated with you in your arduous labors. May the Grace and favor of God fit you abundantly for every good word and work, required, or expected at your hands.

With love to yourself and family and the brethren who are co-workers with you,

I am, yours in Christ,
S. W. RICHARDS.

EXTRACTS

OF A LETTER FROM ELDER JAMES LEWIS, DATED PAROWAN, MARCH 12TH, 1887.

The past winter has been fraught with many items of interest to the Latter-day Saints, regarding the progress of the work of building up the kingdom of God. There is that power possessed by the Prophet Brigham which stamps all his acts as being calculated to inspire in the breasts even of our enemies a reverence as well as dread of that power by which he governs and controls the temporal as well as spiritual interest of a nation springing into existence—the wonder of the wisest politicians of this age, and although isolated, yet not the less feared; and when we contrast the rotten and corrupt institutions of the age in which we live, and the religion and institutions of heaven which we as a people revere and cherish, it is not at all to be wondered at that we are hated and despised as well as feared; for I can truly testify that while they sink down and become broken and divided, we shall rise and flourish and become mighty in the earth, and they (our enemies) can't help themselves.

The reformation has spread among the people, and it can truly be said a majority are trying to live their religion. There is a much better spirit among the people, and you know the more we live our religion, the greater our power with God our Father, and, of course, the more to be feared by our enemies. It was in the days of Moses, when the Israelites kept the commandments, they prospered, and they triumphed over their enemies, for God was with them. The kingdom is moving forward with steady progress, and will increase as the Saints increase in faithfulness. In the Assembly the power of God was manifest; and could the members of Congress or the Legislative councils of the States be governed by the same power—the same light and intelligence, there would not be the divisions, dissensions, confusion, corruption, debauchery, oppression and distress, so debasing in their influence as we see at the present time through this one happy and free Republic; yet they have the opportunity to publish to the world the wickedness of the people of Utah; but they are so corrupt that they cannot see their own degradation; and thank God the day is not far distant when the avenging hand of God Almighty shall be stretched out over the nation as spoken of by the Prophet Joseph to Henry Clay, and the day hastens as the Saints repent and magnify their calling.

Our Iron works will soon be in successful operation; they have an engine to put up, and I look forward to see success attend this enterprise. There has been a location made at the head of the Rio Virgin for the raising of cotton and indigo, and I presume the settlement will be formed without delay. The location is a good one, and will be a strong one on account of the hostility of the Indians. The health of the people is generally good, and plenty is the lot of the Saints at this time. All is right and will be with us, and may God bless you with the faithful as my prayer.

ARRIVAL OF THE GOLDEN AGE.

By the arrival of the *Golden Age* we are in receipt of exchanges from the East, from which we glean the following:

Gov. Geary has resigned his office of Governor of Kansas. He states his reason for such a step to be the failure of the government in backing him up according to promise. He also states, that fifty were under a covenant to assassinate him, if his official conduct displeased them.

The new treaties with England and Mexico have been rejected by the senate at Washington: yet a basis remains upon which new and more acceptable treaties will be formed.

The new Cabinet was made up on Friday, March 13th and sent to the Senate, where it was immediately confirmed. It is composed as follows:

Secretary of State... LEWIS CASS, of Michigan.
Sec'y Treasury... HOWELL COBB, of Georgia.
Secretary of War... JOHN B. FLOYD, Virginia.
Sec'y of Navy... ISAAC TOLSON, of Conn.
Sec'y Interior... JACOB THOMSON, Miss.
Attorney General... JUDGE BLACK, of Pennsylvania.
Postmaster Gen... AARON V. BROWN, Tenn.

Maj. Ben. McCulloch was offered the governorship of Utah; but declined.

Turney Nelson, of Indiana, has been nominated for Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Territory of Utah.

TEHUANTEPEC.
The Herald publishes a correspondence from Vera Cruz, which states that serious disorders have taken place in Tehuantepec, in which many have been killed. This has somewhat affected the operations on the Isthmus, and one hundred persons have gone to the United States, and eighty were on their way to Vera Cruz. The origin of the troubles, it seems had no connection with the work on the road.

LOWER CALIFORNIA.
On the 10th inst., a decree was published ordering that all claims to lands in Lower California, or to the islands adjacent, that were not presented to and recognized as genuine by the Supreme Government, within six months after the publication of this decree in the capital of that territory, should, by such neglect, be declared null, void and of no value, and that all lands not recognized in said time in Lower California should revert to the nation as public domain.

THE CEMENT AND THE CONSTITUTION.
We learn that the Constitution has been denounced in several churches. The Government, we believe, has taken no notice whatever of their opposition.

PREPARING FOR THE FILLISTERS.
In the State of Simoes extensive preparations are being made for a strong resistance to the filibuster invasion from Alta California.

Miscellaneous.

HORRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Some horrible railroad accidents have occurred; one near Hamilton (Canada) and the other on the Pennsylvania railroad.

At the Hamilton affair there were, it is supposed, between seventy-five and one hundred passengers in the cars, but fifteen of whom were taken out alive; and of these five died of their injuries soon after being rescued. The conductor of the train, a German boy and three others, were the only persons who escaped the massacre. This is the most disastrous casualty that has happened since the Norwalk tragedy. The accident was caused by the misplacement of a switch on the train.

Among those on board was Samuel Zimmerman, the great railway king of Canada, and he perished. His death will be a disastrous blow to the business interests of the province.

Another dreadful railroad accident occurred on the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Altoona station. An emigrant train standing on the track was run into by a heavy freight train, crowding the rear car into the one before it, and causing the instant death of six of the passengers, and mauling ten or twelve others.

THE NEW NICARAGUAN TRANSIT ROUTE.

Many inquiries are made as to the N. Y. Herald, why the new transit route through Nicaragua and Costa Rica abandons the present route from Virgin Bay to San Juan del Sur, and adopts a new route from the mouth of the Sapo river to Salinas Bay on the Pacific. The reason is because this route gives much the best harbor on the Pacific, and should have been adopted from the first moment. The province of Guanacaste, in which the new route and harbor lie, belongs of right to Nicaragua, but has been forcibly withheld from her by Costa Rica. If Walker defeats the Costa Ricans in the present struggle it is not at all unlikely that he will retain the proposed new route, and found a new city at Salinas Bay. The fight now is between Walker and San Draper.

THE NEW MEXICAN MURDER.

A man named Walden Woods was found bleeding profusely near Louisa place, Harrison avenue. He was conveyed by an officer to the Fifth Police Station and Dr. Stevens was called, when it was found that he was bleeding from four places on the head. His wounds were dressed, and after refreshing at the Station about an hour and a half he was taken home, where he died in about three hours.

The deceased was an American, about 40 years of age, and was from New Mexico. He was a well-to-do man, and there is no suspicion as to who committed the murder.

THE TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS.

In the Massachusetts House of Representatives, recently, the report in regard to the testimony of a witness, by a vote of 208 to 95, was committed, with instructions to report a bill providing substantially that no person shall be deemed an incompetent witness in consequence of his opinions on the subject of religion; but that evidence may be given of athletic opinion as a test of credibility; and any person who may be found not to believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, shall be permitted to testify on his solemn affirmation, subject to the pains and penalties of perjury.

THE INDIAN SHOT.

An Indian was killed near Dogtown, on Wednesday last, who had been employed by a trader to carry some goods a short distance, on the opposite side of the river, and shortly after his death the trader was informed that the Indian had been shot. On repairing to the spot his body was found. He had been shot in the back. The goods were not taken.

RESERVOIR BROKE.

On Monday morning, the 30th ult., the reservoir of El Dorado Water Co., at Michigan Bluffs, broke—the water rushed out in great force, carrying a Chinese house, about twenty inmates, some fifteen or twenty rods to the suburbs of the place, where it should be.—*Place Herald.*

SMILE ANOTHER.

About 10 o'clock on Friday evening, says the *Sacramento City Times*, the wife of Philip Lewis, residing near Fifth and M streets, attempted to commit suicide. She is a young woman, and the mother of one child. The family had resided at Forest City during the past year. Until some ten days since, Mrs. Lewis, it appears, had manifested indications of despondency at different intervals, and had thereby given some ground for suspicion on the part of her husband. On Friday, after a brief absence, Mr. Lewis returned, and found the doors locked. On breaking into the building, he found her standing up, with a severe gash across her throat, which she stated had been voluntarily inflicted with a razor. Dr. Bailey was immediately called, and the wound was dressed. The windpipe was cut, but the wound will not, it is thought, prove fatal. Last evening she was easy and comfortable, and it is believed she will recover. The act was undoubtedly committed in a temporary fit by the fact that her husband had recently been awarded out of property in Forest City.

A DETERMINED ENCOUNTER WITH A GRIZZLY.—A Mr. Jones, who returned to Oroville recently from the El Creek, tells a severe story to the *Record* of a desperate fight with a grizzly. A man named Fields was engaged in trapping grizzlies, and had succeeded in securing one of magnificent proportions. Afterwards he met with Mr. Jones with her two cubs. He immediately fired upon her and wounded her in the head or neck. The bear, however, got him down and a fearful struggle ensued. He punched her off with his gun, and jammed his feet and elbows into her mouth, as opportunity offered to prevent her from getting a mouthful, and they were lacerated in a frightful manner. He was also severely bitten in the back, the wounds being inflicted in such a manner as to lead to the belief that the bear's jaw was broken. They rolled down a bank some three or four feet high, when one of his dogs came to the rescue, and making an unexpected attack in the rear, gave Mr. F. time to reload his gun, and send a fatal shot into the bear. The man crawled home and is likely to do well.

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Later From Europe.

By the arrival of the *America* at New York, we have dates from Liverpool to Feb. 28th.

There appears to be a disposition on the part of Parliament to censure the Government in the late China difficulties.

Arrangements for the settlement of the difficulty between Great Britain and Russia, progressing satisfactorily, but the treaty had not been signed. The proposed convention specifies that Great Britain shall enjoy equal commercial privileges with the most favored nations, and that British Consuls may reside at several stations in the interior of Persia, and at ports on the Persian Gulf. Persia refuses to permit Consuls to reside at ports on the Caspian Sea, inasmuch as her treaties with Russia forbid it.

Great Britain shall have the right to form an establishment on the Island of Korak and another at Ormus, and that the Persians shall evacuate Herat and the British give up Bushire.

Mr. Dallas the American Minister to England, is said to be quite popular.

The question of the Sound dues has at length been settled. Denmark is to receive forty-five millions of thalers, in forty payments, bearing interest.

Spain is about to invade Mexico with 10,000 men. The *Express* supposes that this force will confine themselves to the occupation of Vera Cruz.

Later from the South.

By the arrival of the *Senator*, we have dates from Los Angeles to April 4th, San Diego same date, and Santa Barbara April 8th.

FROM LOS ANGELES.

LIFE IN A SOUTHERN CITY.—The past week, says the *Los Angeles Star*, exhibits a molange sufficiently diversified to satisfy the taste of the most ardent winners of lights and shadows. The week opened with promise—first, a horse race, with its attendant tragedy—a murder. Then followed the funeral procession—the mourners going about the streets. A gala day next succeeded, when all was mirth and merriment—prize races, prize horses, prize company, band playing, flag flying—who so happy we. Presto, change!—out comes the revolver—bang, bang, bang like the cold steel—nobody hurt and nobody killed. The evening closed with an onslaught on water, and a few "serenades" on private account. Then comes a night attack, in which the only offender is an unfortunate "Roisinette." A few dead Indians may be thrown in, by way of making weight; and so the week closes. Did we only know what a day would bring forth, or a night either!

Who will say we are in want of amusement? Who thinks of supplying such want by a theatre? How would such an undertaking, such mimic scenes would be? No, no; we want no counterfeits. We want no Richards or Macbeths, after being done to death, to rise and walk off just as good as new. We must have the genuine thing, and no mistake. If the gods are affixed to spill the crimson flood every night, they may come along, but we must have no shamming. We are used to realism, and will be satisfied with no make-believe. Such is life.

TRADE OF LOS ANGELES.—A tabular statement published in the *Star* shows that during the last nine months there were shipped from the port of San Pedro 139,348 Bb. of beans, 86,700 Bb. of corn, 800 Bb. of corn, 34,000 Bb. of corn meal, 1,427,710 Bb. of grapes, 56,373 Bb. of oranges, 12,517 hides, 11,016 barrels of salt, 25,865 gallons of wine, and 73,869 Bb. of wool. The total value of these exports of domestic products is given at \$228,885.

FROM SAN PEDRO.

THE COAL MINES.—Owing to the defects in the engine and machinery of the San Diego Coal Company, says the *Herald*, they have been delayed some two months, but we understand will commence active operations again in the course of a very few days. We sincerely wish that the parties in San Francisco who pined off the defective machinery on this company, were sunk to the bottom of the shaft and obliterated to remain there till the engine they set down here could pump off the water and "dry them up."

COPPER MINES.

The *Herald* of the 4th of April says that rich copper mines have just been found, within thirty miles of that place, which will pay equal to any mines in Sonora. The ore in another mine, still nearer the town, has been assayed and yields 20 per cent. of pure copper, besides a considerable amount of pure silver.

TROUBLES AMONG THE MORMONS AT SAN BERNARDINO. Late advices from San Bernardino represent that a good deal of trouble exists among the Mormons. The cause of the difficulty seems to be a few persons who failed to get offices in the Church to which they aspired, and a man who was on land that he would neither pay for or leave. They joined forces and commenced "kicking up a fuss." The squatter refused to obey a writ of ejectment and erected a fortification near his house, with all the modern improvements in moats, draw-bridges, ramparts, and other bulwarks, within which he planted a twenty-four pounder. With this, and about forty old muskets and fowling pieces, and the aid of about twenty recruits from the "disaffected," he threatened to blow every Mormon to hell who should attempt to molest him. The proprietors of the town take no notice of him whatever, but go on attending to their crops. This season, will fall off nearly one half for want of rain. They irrigate one field of wheat, of some three thousand acres, which is doing finely; two thousand acres planted on dry land will be a total loss. They will have two thousand acres of corn. It rained there last week. No news of importance.—*Id.*

News from the Interior.

INDIAN SHOT.—An Indian was killed near Dogtown, on Wednesday last, who had been employed by a trader to carry some goods a short distance, on the opposite side of the river, and shortly after his death the trader was informed that the Indian had been shot. On repairing to the spot his body was found. He had been shot in the back. The goods were not taken.

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